



Stratton Safe Routes to School Project

Town Meeting 2024 Warrant Article 53

May 8, 2024

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Town of Arlington



Warrant Article 53 Summary

To see if Town Meeting will authorize the Select Board to approve the Stratton Safe Routes to School Project's Right-of-Way acquisition process.

AGENDA

1. Background
2. Project Scope
3. ROW Acquisition
4. Next Steps

Background

- Town received a MassDOT SRTS Infrastructure Grant in 2019.
- Project Purpose: Provide a fully accessible walking route with safe roadway crossings for children and others to walk to the Stratton School.
- MassDOT-led project. \$1.6M+ in construction/design funding provided by MassDOT.
- Only Town funding required is for ROW acquisition (exact amount TBD).

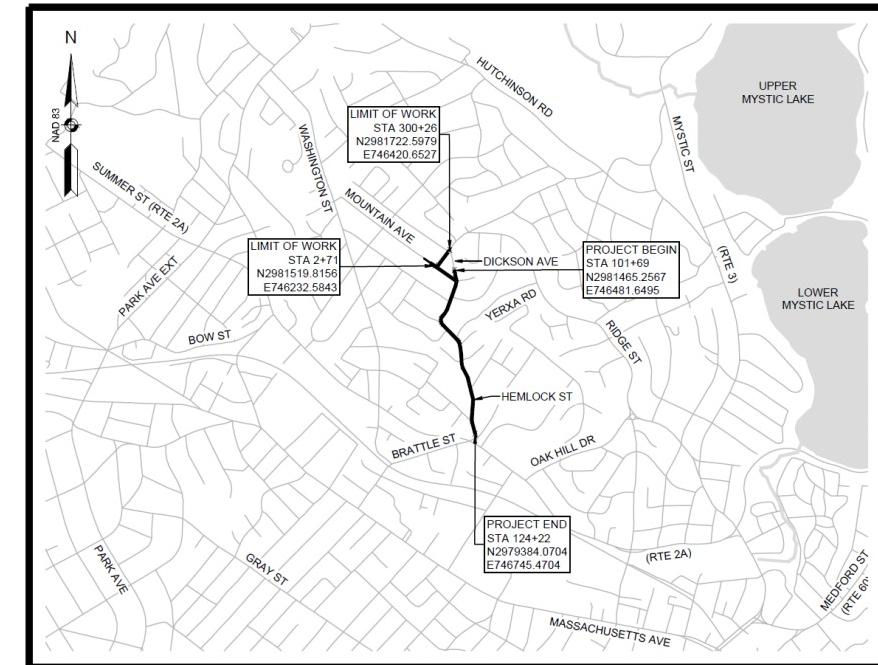


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Project Scope

- Mainly Hemlock St. and Dickson Ave., with improvements on Mountain Ave. and Wheeler Lane.
- Project Components:
 - New/repaired sidewalks;
 - New or upgraded curb ramps;
 - New curb extensions;
 - New Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons.



LOCUS MAP



Graphic rendering of proposed sidewalk on Dickson Ave.

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Right-of-Way (ROW) Acquisition

- MassDOT's ROW Bureau requires a Town Meeting vote to take or otherwise acquire, by eminent domain, purchase, donation, or any other means, land in and around the project.
- Warrant Article 53 requests that Town Meeting authorize the Select Board to approve this process because:
 1. ROW acquisition needs to be approved well before planned construction starting Summer 2025. Annual Spring Town Meeting schedule would cause delays, and unclear if there will be a Special Fall Town Meeting.
 2. MassDOT ROW Bureau permits Town Meeting to authorize the Select Board to approve this process.

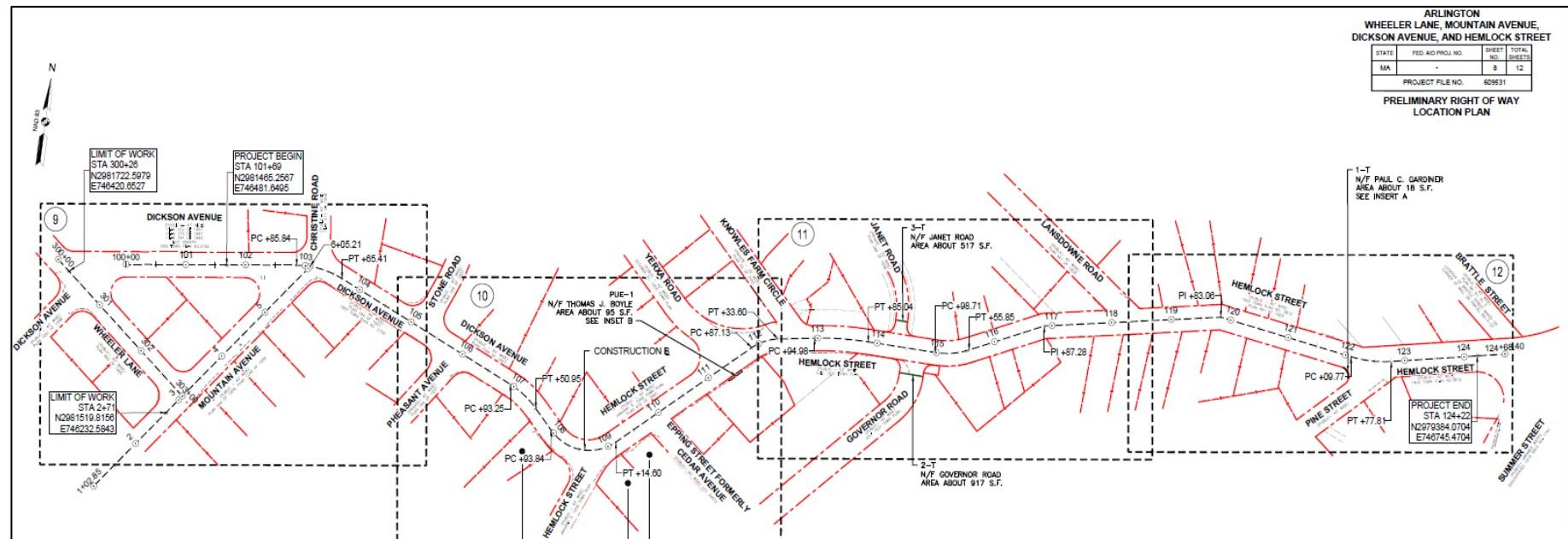


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Right-of-Way (ROW) Acquisition

ROW Acquisition Types - Project Totals			
Affected Properties	Fee Takings	Permanent Easements	Temporary Easements
42	3	5	42
Number of properties with fee takings and/or easements*	Complete transfer of ownership rights to another entity.	Ownership remains with landowner; another entity may use the land permanently.	Ownership remains with landowner; another entity may use the land temporarily.



*An affected property might have more than one type of impact.



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Right-of-Way (ROW) Acquisition

- Majority of project's impacts are temporary easements for construction purposes, meaning funding obligation by the Town is assumed to be low.
- The project's total fee takings amount to 1452 total sq ft.
- Throughout this process, the Town will:
 1. Notify all affected property owners on record.
 2. Offer individual meetings to discuss impacts.
 3. Hire an independent appraiser to value the impacts.
 4. Offer just compensation.



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Next Steps

1. Finalize construction and ROW plans (currently at 75% design).
2. Hire an appraiser to assess impacts to affected properties.
3. Present to Select Board on ROW acquisition plan and request vote of approval.
4. Start construction in Summer 2025.





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